Justification for funds to control aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Montana.

- Prevention is the best course of action; however, cost of watercraft inspection stations ranges from $30,000 to $60,000/year/station depending on operation hours and staffing.
- Multiple pathways of introduction and spread for AIS, virtually all are related to human activities, both accidental and intentional.
  - Invasive mussel (zebra) introduced to Lake Clair in 1988 in ballast water, within <10 yrs infested all of Miss, Hudson, Tenn, and OH river basins.
  - Each female mussel produces 1 million eggs/yr.
  - Eurasian watermilfoil introduced in 1940's- currently infests all states but WY.
- New introductions and the spread of existing infestations have many associated costs. There are the economic impacts such as lost recreational opportunities or damage to water conveyance systems, as well as the ecological costs of the loss of desirable native species and the degradation of aquatic habitats
  - Economic impact of invasive mussels in Gt. Lakes Region estimated at $5 billion from 2000 to 2010 (USFWS).
  - Rockwell report 2003: $1 to $10 billion/yr impact from invasive aquatic plants in U.S. Cost of $100 million/yr for control
- Early detection and control is critical since there are few control methods available for use in water bodies once invasive aquatic species become established, and control costs are high. For example
  - Eurasian watermilfoil control costs/ac: $800 to $43,560/acre
  - Few options for control of mussels (KCl, copper, drawdown); most can't be used in flowing water systems.
- Once species become established and widespread the potential for complete control or eradication is very unlikely.

EXHIBIT 22
DATE Jan 22, 2011
HB 17